

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein step (b) comprises associating a visual control with each of said corner or side of the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame allowing entering said interactive crop-to-fill mode, said visual controls being rendered visible either upon selection of a region defined by said ~~boundary~~ bounding frame, upon entry into said region by the pointing device, or at all times.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the entering of step (b) comprises pressing a button on a computer mouse over a visual control associated with one of said corner or side of the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame, and leaving the interactive crop-to-fill mode comprises subsequently releasing the button.
4. (Previously amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the entering of step (b) comprises pressing a key on a keyboard, and leaving the interactive crop-to-fill mode comprises subsequently releasing said key.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the cropping of step (c) comprises:
  - determining on which corner or side of the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame the positioning device has been positioned;
  - determining a current position of the pointing device in a coordinate system determined by an original location and size of said image prior to said cropping;

- updating the image within the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame such that the corner or side of the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame the positioning device has been positioned on is set to said current pointer position in said coordinate system.

6. (Previously amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising a step of (d) exiting the crop-to-fill mode, said exiting comprising applying the cropping of step (c) to said image.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises associating a visual control with each of said corner or side of the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame allowing entering said interactive crop-to-fill mode, said visual controls being rendered visible either upon selection of a region defined by said ~~boundary~~ bounding frame, upon entry into said region by the pointing device, or at all times.

9. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the entering of step (b) comprises pressing a button on a computer mouse over a visual control associated with one of said corner or side of the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame, and leaving the interactive crop-to-fill mode comprises subsequently releasing the button.

10. (Previously amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the entering of step (b) comprises pressing a key on a keyboard, and leaving the interactive crop-to-fill mode comprises subsequently releasing said key.

11. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the cropping of step (c) comprises:

- determining on which corner or side of the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame the positioning device has been positioned;

- determining a current position of the pointing device in a coordinate system determined by an original location and size of said image prior to said cropping;
- updating the image within the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame such that the corner or side of the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame the ~~pointing~~ pointing device has been positioned on is set to said current pointer position in said coordinate system.

12. (Previously amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, further comprising a step (d) of exiting the crop-to-fill mode, said exiting comprising applying the cropping of step (c) to said image.

13. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for performing a crop-to-fill operation on an image, comprising the steps of:

(a) defining said image by automatically or manually containing at least a portion of a source image within a bounding frame, hiding any portion of said source image outside of said bounding frame;

(b) entering an interactive crop-to-fill mode by positioning a pointing device at a corner or side of said bounding frame thereby setting an anchor point on an opposite side or corner of said bounding frame;

(c) cropping said image by moving said pointing device, thereby creating a cropped image, said cropped image ~~continuously~~ filling said bounding frame and an aspect ratio thereof being maintained equal to an aspect ratio of the bounding frame as said image is being cropped, said image being thereby either zoomed in or zoomed out within said ~~boundary~~ bounding frame simultaneously to said cropping, wherein a portion of said image that is adjacent to said anchor point remains substantially fixed.

14. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein said pointing device is a mouse, and wherein, in step (c), said moving said pointing device comprises moving said mouse towards the center of the image to zoom in and away from the center to zoom out.

15. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having computer instructions stored thereon to implement a method for performing a crop-to-fill operation on an image, comprising the steps of:

(a) defining said image by automatically or manually containing at least a portion of a source image within a bounding frame, hiding any portion of said source image outside of said bounding frame;

(b) entering an interactive crop-to-fill mode by positioning a pointing device at a corner or side of said bounding frame thereby setting an anchor point on an opposite side or corner of said bounding frame;

(c) cropping said image by moving said pointing device, thereby creating a cropped image, said cropped image ~~continuously~~ filling said bounding frame and an aspect ratio thereof being maintained equal to an aspect ratio of the ~~boundary~~ bounding frame as said image is being cropped, said image being thereby either zoomed in or zoomed out within said ~~boundary~~ bounding frame simultaneously to said cropping, wherein a portion of said image that is adjacent to said anchor point remains substantially fixed.

16. (Currently amended) A system for performing a crop-to-fill operation on an image comprising:

- a display for displaying an image;
- means for defining said image by automatically or manually containing at least a portion of a source image displayed on said display within a bounding frame and for hiding any portion of said source image outside said frame;

- means for entering an interactive crop-to-fill mode with a pointing device thereby setting an anchor point on an opposite side or corner of said bounding frame;

- means responsive to movement of said pointing device to crop said image in order to create a cropped image, said means responsive to movement ~~continuously~~ filling said bounding frame with the cropped image and maintaining an aspect ratio thereof equal to an aspect ratio of the bounding frame as said image is being cropped, said image being thereby either zoomed in or zoomed out within said ~~boundary~~ bounding frame simultaneously to said cropping, wherein a portion of said image that is adjacent to said anchor point remains substantially fixed.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (new) A method according to claim 6, further comprising an optional step (e) of aborting said cropping, said aborting comprising pressing a predetermined key.

20. (new) A computer readable medium according to claim 12, further comprising an optional step (e) of aborting said cropping, said aborting comprising pressing a predetermined key.